week). Circling around on Liberty Cap in the cloud we finally reached the point where descent was imperative. Picking a random direction, down we went! Past huge rock towers, through narrow snow fingers, anything as long as it led down. Much later, at 5000 feet we got under the clouds and recognized our first landmark in 5 hours of steady travel. We had descended the entire Mowich face and were walking down the canyon of the South Mowich. A bivouac fire dried us partially and early the next morning we hiked out to a road just in time to prevent our own rescue on the opposite side of the mountain! Thanks to careful advance planning by my three companions, we were able to climb all night without ever missing the desired route and I am sure all future parties will agree that Dave chose the safest route available on this fine wall. (*Editor's note:* None of the previously claimed ascents were authorized by the National Park Service and so have remained unreported. This was the first *legal* ascent.)

DON N. ANDERSON

*Mount Rainier, South Tahoma Glacier Headwall.* The South Tahoma Glacier and its headwall which rises to Point Success on Mount Rainier had only recently been opened by the Park Service after a closure of over 15 years following the crash of a Marine transport in that area, and during this time the headwall had gained a reputation it did not really deserve. Like many Rainier climbs, there is no real technical difficulty, but it is important to find solid snow and ice and do the ascent when there is no rockfall or avalanche danger. We had the advantage of climbing early in the morning shade after a day of cold wind that solidified several light snowstorms from the previous week. Steve Marts and I approached the mountain from Indian Henry's Hunting Ground, and because of low cloudiness, spent much time groping around to find Success Cleaver, where we camped at 9500 feet. In the morning we zigzagged through the crevasse patterns and found a place to cross the giant bergschrund at the glacier headwall without having to cut a step. From then on to the tip of Point Success, we followed the most direct line possible. Crampons bit well, and in four places we had to climb over or around rock bands, on crampons because of *verglas*. We reached Point Success at about noon.

FRED BECKEY

*Mount Rainier, Kautz Glacier Headwall.* The Kautz Glacier Headwall on Mount Rainier was climbed July 8 by Pat Callis, Don Gordon, and Dan Davis. This headwall is the glacial finger and rock and snow face above the left part of the Kautz Glacier, bounded on the left by the

Kautz Cleaver and on the right by rock cliffs and the upper Kautz Glacier. The approach was made via Christine Falls and Van Trump Park to the meadows and ridges of the lower Wapowety Cleaver. High camp was made between 9500 and 10,000 feet on the Wapowety Cleaver from where it was easy to descend to the Kautz Glacier in the morning. The glacial finger above is reached by keeping left of the ice cliffs which separate the lower Kautz Glacier from the upper Kautz Glacier. We then ascended the finger, skirting three major crevasses, to reach the rock and snow slopes above. Here we first climbed obliquely right on a rock and snow slope until we arrived at another snow slope which allowed us to ascend obliquely left and when this pitch ended in a side cliff we climbed straight up on snow, many rope lengths, until further vertical progress was blocked by a cliff slanting up to the right. We then angled upward staying at the base of the cliff until it was feasible to climb through a gully in the cliff, and above this final cliff there were just snow slopes to Point Success. Due to the whiteout and blizzard conditions in which we found ourselves at Point Success we bivouacked there for the night in a snow cave, which was very miserable, and continued to the summit the next morning. Because the climb was made early in the year and after a recent snowfall, the cliffs above the glacier were almost exclusively snow slopes. Under different conditions or later in the summer this part of the climb would probably be mostly on loose rock with some rockfall danger.

DAN DAVIS, *The Mountaineers*

*Mount Stuart, Direct North Buttress.* Although the north buttress of Mount Stuart was first climbed in 1956 from an ice couloir extending up from the Stuart Glacier, the lower half of the 2000-foot buttress had never been ascended at all. Not knowing really what to expect, Steve Marts and I traversed the Stuart Glacier and then dropped down snow slopes to its junction with the Ice Cliff Glacier. Though late in the day and because of a possible weather change we decided to climb as high as we could, bivouac and finish the ascent in the morning. The first part was up a steepish snow couloir, which we left to our right to climb a three-pitch slab on the outside of the lower buttress. The climbing ranged from moderate Class 4 to difficult Class 5 and was the most interesting portion of the new route. A number of succeeding pitches, all on or very close to the buttress crest, brought us to the junction of previous routes from the Stuart Glacier on the right and the Ice Cliff Glacier on the left. Darkness found us at a ledge just beneath the great gendarme, and in the morning we continued on to the summit.

FRED BECKEY